**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—He wanted to know what the attitude of the Government is.

**Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.**—When I say I am against the motion, I should not be understood as if I belittle non-official opinion in a thing of this sort.

**Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.**—Since I am made to understand that Government has not changed its mentality regarding irrigation, I am not going to press it to a division and so I withdraw the resolution.

(*The resolution was withdrawn with leave.*)

*8. Anti-malarial Campaign in the State.*

**President.**—Resolution No. 8.

**Mr. A. Eachara Menon.**—The resolution standing in my name runs thus:—

"*That this Council recommends to the Government that immediate steps be taken for a well-planned and systematic anti-malarial campaign in the State.*"

Sir, it does not require any speech from me for your acceptance of the resolution. When I represented to the House on a former occasion that Major Sir Ronald Ross should be got down, to consider ways and means to eradicate the scourge, the Government made the Chief Medical Officer say that for a small State like Cochin, it was a big affair and should not be thought of. But we have been informed that the disease was wiped out of the peninsula of Malaya and Singapore. What Malaya and Singapore have done, we can surely do, if we so mind. Our State is not so poor as to find funds for getting rid of the disease. That malaria is a scourge which, if not radically wiped out, would undermine the vitality of the population and render it unfit for work at an early stage is a notorious fact. Equally well-known is the fact that this disease can completely be eradicated by an organised anti-malarial campaign (so recommends the Malaria Commission).

Sir, you are not satisfied with all the comforts you at present have in the town. Not contended with the amenities of town life that you now have, you intend spending big sums to make it more luxurious. Please consider for a moment a figure with bloated belly, sunken eyes, swollen out cheeks, emaciated chest,—so emaciated that you could see the palpitation of the heart with your naked eyes—lean, neither limbs scarcely strong to support the body. Then you will come to realise what the position will be. I do not think there is anybody in this House so bereft of the milk of human kindness in his vein as not to think of lending a helping hand to these wasting human beings. Of all the people, the major portion who are affected by this are the depressed classes. If you do not take up the work in hand

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at once, if you be hesitating to move in the matter, their condition will grow worse and worse and they will be of no use to anything.

Italy has been able to free itself from this disease. Linlithgo report points out "of all the diseases of India, malaria is the most widespread and its effects on the efficiency of the rural community are disastrous. The importance of combating malaria has thus been recognised not only as national but as an international problem.

Madras is contemplating to enter into a campaign. We will do well to enter the arena without delay considering the great number that fall a prey to the fell disease. Take steps to annihilate the anopheles. Distribute the preventives, quinine and febrifuge, ant take all other steps demanded of you and then you will have done a good deal for rural reconstruction.

With these few words I recommend the resolution for your acceptance.

**Mr. A. B. Salem.**—I rise to second it without a speech.

**Mr. A. S. Harihara Ayyar.**—I support the mover by adding that, in spite of the fact that Government is opening a harbour and we have splendid wastes in our State which may be cultivated with advantage if malaria is removed from those tracts, I earnestly request that the motion may be given effect to. My personal experience in Mulathara and Nanniode of which I have experience for the last 30 years—as a student I had been there, and I have seen flourishing villages in Mulathara. Now, I might say, without exaggerating, there is not a single house with inhabitants there. There were two rows beginning from Valia Srambi to the river. All those houses have dilapidated and most of the inhabitants are dead and gone or have changed their place of residence and the only rich man Peria Nayakam Pillai in the locality, he is no more and he had four sons and two of them have already passed away in their teens in malaria and the third is also in his last moments. Last one has gone to Coimbatore for safety. The gentleman was paying Rs. 1,000 as Government taxes. Such is the case of Mulathara.

The same is the case with Nanniode and parts on the northern portion of the Chittur river east of second mile stone from Chittur. They are so badly stricken with malaria so much so the yield per acre has very much been reduced for want of labour in those parts. So in supporting, I earnestly request the Government to take early measures to eradicate the evil.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—May I ask the Government whether they keep quinine in the Anchal Offices as they do in the British parts?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—They do not do it

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now. Certainly they are prepared to undertake free distribution of quinine.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—Quinine must be distributed in malarial tracts like Chittur. That will go a long way. That must be given at a cheap rate.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—We are thinking of free distribution. (*Hear, hear.*)

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Is it all over the State?

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Yes, all over the State.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—If you hear of the anti-malarial measure, you would be certainly astonished. There is a dispensary in Nanniode which is practically useless for malaria cases also. There, want of quinine is seriously felt

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—I repudiate that statement.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—I have put questions and got answer On my own responsibility, I said.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—On my own responsibility, I am speaking. Never was there scarcity of quinine. I never got a complaint that quinine was not in stock. I spent Rs. 8,000 last year.

**Dr. A. G. Menon.**—Two years ago, I brought this to the notice of this very House.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—Even then it was not at all supported by facts. Well, Rs. 8,000 worth of quinine has been distributed throughout the hospitals of the State. This is a very large amount indeed out of an allotment of Rs. 75,000 for medicines. Here, in this point I accepted the principle of the necessity of extending malarial relief. Anything like anti-malarial measure is out of the question of the kind which perhaps the Hon'ble Member has in view. It involves the question of the destruction of anopheles. The destruction of anopheles is a matter of completely changing the environments of our town and the village and the malaria affected parts. Where malaria has to be eradicated we have to spend thousands and thousands of rupees. Millions of money have been spent over the Panama Canal Scheme. The capital required for the Harbour scheme and for converting the Cochin State Railway into broad-gauge put together would be inadequate for an anti-malarial scheme in eradicating it altogether. For an antimalarial scheme an anti-malarial survey has got to be done first. We have to find out the abode of anopheles in the place. A staff of medical men trained in medical work with knowledge of entomology will go there, make a regular survey, perhaps with the help of an Engineer. It involves an amount of money which I don't think

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the State can undertake easily. But the bringing of relief should be considered. It is certainly a matter of very serious concern. Government, I am sure, will grant an additional allotment for quinine for free distribution throughout the State, for which I think the Member for Chittur was bringing this motion.

**Dr, A. R. Menon.**—What I want to make clear is that quinine must be distributed through Anchal Offices.

**Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.**—By various means it will be distributed. There will be travelling physicians who will take quinine from one malarial tract to another. The principle is accepted.

**Dr. A. R. Menon.**—The money will be granted in supplementary grants.

(*The resolution was, with leave, withdrawn.*)

*Teaching of Hindi in Schools (contd).*

**Mr. K. Mohamed Seethi.**—Mr. President, Sir, I rise to move the following resolution standing in my name and which runs thus:—

*"This Council recommends to the Government that the teaching of Hindi as a compulsory subject should be introduced in all the State Schools at least from Form III upwards."*

In doing so, I may at once tell this House that I am fully conscious of my responsibility to the school-going population of the State in requesting the Government to add one more subject to their curriculum of studies. I move this resolution, not in the spirit of a dreaming idealist, but in the spirit of one who is sufficiently alive to hard realities. To those who have travelled beyond Malabar I may have to say little to convince them of the necessity of learning Hindi. Whether in the train or in the street, Hindi helps them as no other language does, even English included. One cannot have a comfortable day anywhere in North India without a knowledge of Hindi; because in those parts it is difficult for one to procure even food and water without at least a smattering of that language, however proficient one may be in English. It is a well-known fact that European officers in the Military and Civil Services learn Hindi as it is considered to be a necessary qualification for them. European business men in North India invariably acquire a working knowledge of that language. The reason for this unique power and prestige, which Hindi commands, is not far to seek. It is the mother-tongue of 14 crores in India and it is understood by 23 crores, or in other words, it is understood practically by the whole of India except the seven crores of South India. Bengali which comes next in point of its votaries claims only 5 crores while the other languages lag far behind. All of you know that our mother-tongue (Malayalam) cannot boast of even one crore

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